



General Assembly

January Session, 2011

Raised Bill No. 1146

LCO No. 3892

03892_____HS_

Referred to Committee on Human Services

Introduced by:
(HS)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE RESERVATION OF SECURITY DEPOSIT
GUARANTEES TO ASSIST PARTICIPANTS IN THE SECTION 8
HOUSING CHOICE PROGRAM AND THE RENTAL ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM WITH MOBILITY MOVES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 17b-802 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2011*):

3 (a) The Commissioner of Social Services shall, within available
4 appropriations, establish [, within available appropriations,] and
5 administer a security deposit guarantee program for persons who (1)
6 (A) are recipients of temporary family assistance, aid under the state
7 supplement program, or state-administered general assistance, or (B)
8 have a documented showing of financial need, and (2) (A) are residing
9 in emergency shelters or other emergency housing, cannot remain in
10 permanent housing due to any reason specified in subsection (a) of
11 section 17b-808, or are served a notice to quit in a summary process
12 action instituted pursuant to chapter 832, or (B) have a rental assistance
13 program or federal Section 8 certificate or voucher. Under [such] the
14 security deposit guarantee program, the [Commissioner of Social

15 Services] commissioner may provide security deposit guarantees for
 16 use by such persons in lieu of a security deposit on a rental dwelling
 17 unit. Eligible persons may receive a security deposit guarantee in an
 18 amount not to exceed the equivalent of two months' rent on such
 19 rental unit. No person may apply for and receive a security deposit
 20 guarantee more than once in any eighteen-month period without the
 21 express authorization of the [Commissioner of Social Services]
 22 commissioner, except as provided in subsection (b) of this section. The
 23 [Commissioner of Social Services] commissioner may deny eligibility
 24 for the security deposit guarantee program to an applicant for whom
 25 the commissioner has paid two or more claims by landlords during the
 26 [immediately preceding] five-year period preceding the date of the
 27 application. The [Commissioner of Social Services] commissioner may
 28 establish priorities for providing security deposit guarantees to eligible
 29 persons described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subdivision (2) of
 30 this subsection in order to administer the program within available
 31 appropriations.

32 (b) Not less than ten per cent of the security deposit guarantees
 33 issued during each quarter of a fiscal year shall be reserved for
 34 participants in the federal Housing Choice Voucher Program 42 USC
 35 1437f(o), and the rental assistance program who, with the assistance of
 36 the Department of Social Services or a contractor acting on behalf of
 37 the department, make mobility moves from an area of low opportunity
 38 to an area of significantly higher opportunity, as prescribed by the
 39 department. Any portion of the security deposit guarantees that is
 40 reserved during any fiscal quarter and is not used for such purpose
 41 shall, after the end of such fiscal quarter, be available for issuance by
 42 the commissioner for other security deposit guarantees under the
 43 program.

44 [(b)] (c) In the case of any person who qualifies for a guarantee, the
 45 Commissioner of Social Services, or any emergency shelter under
 46 contract with the Department of Social Services to assist in the
 47 administration of the security deposit guarantee program established

48 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, may execute a written
49 agreement to pay the landlord for any damages suffered by the
50 landlord due to the tenant's failure to comply with such tenant's
51 obligations as defined in section 47a-21, provided the amount of any
52 such payment shall not exceed the amount of the requested security
53 deposit. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this
54 section, if a person who has previously received a grant for a security
55 deposit or a security deposit guarantee becomes eligible for a
56 subsequent security deposit guarantee within eighteen months after a
57 claim has been paid on a prior security deposit guarantee, such person
58 may receive a security deposit guarantee. The amount of the
59 subsequent security deposit guarantee for which such person would
60 otherwise have been eligible shall be reduced by (1) any amount of a
61 previous grant which has not been returned to the department
62 pursuant to section 47a-21, or (2) the amount of any payment made to
63 the landlord for damages pursuant to this subsection.

64 ~~[(c)]~~ (d) Any payment made pursuant to this section to any person
65 receiving temporary family assistance, aid under the state supplement
66 program or state-administered general assistance shall not be deducted
67 from the amount of assistance to which the recipient would otherwise
68 be entitled.

69 ~~[(d)]~~ (e) On and after July 1, 2000, no special need or special benefit
70 payments shall be made by the commissioner for security deposits
71 from the temporary family assistance, state supplement, or state-
72 administered general assistance programs.

73 ~~[(e)]~~ (f) The Commissioner of Social Services may, within available
74 appropriations, on a case-by-case basis, provide a security deposit
75 grant to a person eligible for the security deposit guarantee program
76 established under subsection (a) of this section, in an amount not to
77 exceed the equivalent of one month's rent on such rental unit provided
78 the commissioner determines that emergency circumstances exist
79 which threaten the health, safety or welfare of a child who resides with

80 such person. Such person shall not be eligible for more than one such
81 grant without the authorization of said commissioner. Nothing in this
82 section shall preclude the approval of such one-month security deposit
83 grant in conjunction with a one-month security deposit guarantee.

84 [(f)] (g) The Commissioner of Social Services may provide a security
85 deposit grant to a person receiving such grant through any emergency
86 shelter under an existing contract with the Department of Social
87 Services to assist in the administration of the security deposit program,
88 but in no event shall a payment be authorized after October 1, 2000.
89 Nothing in this section shall preclude the commissioner from entering
90 into a contract with one or more emergency shelters for the purpose of
91 issuing security deposit guarantees.

92 [(g)] (h) The Commissioner of Social Services shall adopt
93 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to
94 administer the program established pursuant to this section and to set
95 eligibility criteria for the program, but may implement the program
96 until June 30, 2003, while in the process of adopting such regulations
97 provided notice of intent to adopt the regulations is published in the
98 Connecticut Law Journal within twenty days after implementation.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	July 1, 2011	17b-802
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Statement of Purpose:

To reserve a portion of security deposit guarantees for participants in the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program and Rental Assistance Program who make mobility moves.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]